

million youth involved globally in what is the world's largest youth organization. Though 4-H maintains its rural and agricultural roots, its leadership development activities have shown even broader influence as the organization has adapted to changing times. I am proud of the unique and remarkable way New Mexico's 4-H clubs teach responsibility, decision-making, communication skills and citizenship, all key ingredients to purposeful lives and strong communities. Through hands-on experience, 4-Hers learn what it takes to follow a project through to completion, keep records, and make presentations to others about their work. Whether it is baking, showing or judging livestock at the fair, sewing or public speaking, club members are challenged to set and achieve goals, find creative solutions to problems, overcome obstacles along the way, and demonstrate their progress to others.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the parents and community leaders of 4-H. Those who donate time, expertise and assistance to 4-H are often alumni who appreciate the lessons they learned in their clubs, and this has created the legacy of involvement that makes the organization so strong after 100 years. The mentorship and wealth of experience these leaders provide produce the tangible results we see in exhibits at the fair and community projects. However, they also sow the seeds of confident leadership and citizenship that may not reach full bloom until later in a member's life. I am also extremely proud to continue supporting 4-H's Share/Care afterschool program and the Rio Arriba County Clover Club, which have proven invaluable in giving young people the chance to get involved in fun, educational activities instead of drugs.

The long, proud record of 4-H in New Mexico, the United States, and around the world is testimony to the enduring viability of this organization and its central values, firmly rooted in our hard-working rural and agricultural communities. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the valuable contribution of 4-H's "head, heart, health and hands," to New Mexico's youth and the very fabric of our society. It is a great pleasure to celebrate the national centennial of 4-H, and I congratulate this organization on beginning another century of "making the best better."

THE ELDER JUSTICE ACT OF 2002

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to support a bipartisan bill to end the longstanding and pervasive problem of elder abuse, the Elder Justice Act of 2002. To care for the aging population in this Nation has been pushed aside for too long. This comprehensive measure centralizes the oversight of elder justice in one Federal office; all while listening to the differing needs of States and localities.

To take proactive steps to prevent abuse from occurring, this bill calls for widespread training and maintenance of a national clearinghouse of information. This includes studies, statistics, and a broad review of State practices to ensure adequate protection of our aging population. This bill also deals with abuse after it has occurred, and significantly reforms the security, prosecution, and safe-havens available for seniors.

Most importantly, this bill sets an important precedent: the unspeakable and innumerable accounts of violence against seniors will finally have a long-overdue response from the U.S. Senate. Once again, I appreciate the work and leadership of Senators BREAUX and HATCH, and I am proud to join as a cosponsor of this legislation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CALDWELL COUNTY FFA

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Caldwell County High School Future Farmers of America, FFA, chapter.

The Caldwell chapter has been selected as one of 10 finalists in the country for student development and will compete to be one of three top Models of Innovation at the 75th National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY.

Across the Nation, FFA chapters are rated according to a star system. The Caldwell High School FFA chapter was one of only 103 FFA chapters across the entire United States to receive the highest rating of three stars. This was the first time this chapter ever achieved a three star rating.

All 122 FFA students at Caldwell County High School deserve special recognition for their hard work and innovative spirit. The agricultural industry today needs and deserves folks like the ones at Caldwell County High School. I am confident that this group of young men and women will help further transform the agricultural industry and take innovation to a new level.

RECOGNIZING SPORTSMEN'S IMPACT ON OUR ECONOMY

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, earlier this week I was proud to represent the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus in a press conference to announce the results of the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation. This report confirms something that many of us have believed for some time, that hunting and fishing are an integral part of the fabric of this Nation and an essential part of our economy.

I was joined in this announcement by Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton; Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Steve Williams; Melinda Gable with the Congressional Sportsmen's

Foundation; Brent Manning with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; Mike Nussman with the American Sportfishing Association; and Doug Painter with National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Hunting and fishing are an important part of people's lives in my home State of Arkansas and all around the country. It is an activity that brings friends and families together and the impressive statistics that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is releasing today are hard for those of us in Congress to ignore. As an avid sportswoman myself, I understand first-hand the importance that should be placed on promoting and preserving our ability to hunt, fish, and pursue outdoor activities. In fact, one of my fondest memories is of sitting with my father, brother, and sisters in a duck blind as the sun rose over the Arkansas Delta. And now, I get the joy of taking my boys outdoors to go fishing and hunting.

I first joined the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus because of my lifelong love of the outdoors and my commitment that as sportsmen, we have a duty to protect and provide for sustainable uses of America's renewable wildlife resources. And now as the cochair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, I, along with my colleagues, am working to enact legislation to provide ample resources to conserve wildlife and America's rich tradition of outdoor recreation.

Wildlife and our Nation's lands and waters are the foundation for our outdoor recreation as well as the ecosystems in which we survive. A perfect example of this is Arkansas' RICE, Rice Industry Caring for the Environment, project, where farmers voluntarily set aside 171,000 acres of farmland to provide for waterfowl habitat which in turn provides enormous environmental benefits.

The survey shows that last year over 1.4 million Arkansans and 38 million Americans went hunting, fishing, or wildlife watching. And that translated into over \$1 billion to Arkansas' economy and a whopping \$108 billion impact on this Nation's economy. It also shows that over 20,000 Arkansans and well over 1 million nationally are employed directly in hunting and fishing related businesses.

Those numbers show that hunting and fishing are not just worthwhile pastimes, they're big business, too.

On top of that, in 2001 Arkansas' sportsmen paid over \$112 million in State and federal taxes. And nationwide, sportsmen paid in over \$11.4 billion. That's \$11.4 billion going to fund many of our most pressing national priorities such as our national defense, education, highway construction, and conservation programs.

We must continue to recognize the American sportsman's impact on this nation's economy and protect our outdoor legacy for future generations. And I look forward to continued work with